4

UMEBACHI
YAMANAKA

Matcha Made in Heaven

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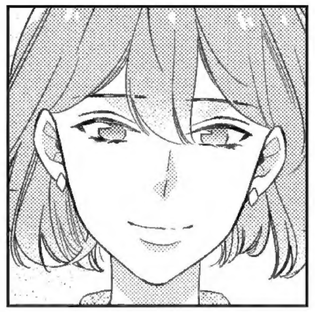
UMEBACHI YAMANAKA

4



Jin Negishi

Son of the owner of Negishi-en, the tea farm situated next to Hananoki-en. He's Chako's childhood friend and too friendly with women.



Hikari Shinomiya

Daughter of the owner of Shinomiya-en, which is a major beverage company. She's Isshin's ex-girlfriend and hasn't given up on him.

Synopsis

Chako returned to her parents' tea farm for the first time in four years. Somehow, she ended up as a fake married couple with Isshin, the guy she met at her parents' tea farm. At first, they argued with each other all the time, but Chako is catching feelings for Isshin as she learns of his stubborn and passionate personality. That's when Isshin asks his ex, Hikari, for help to solve the problem Hananoki-en has. As a result, the problem has been solved, but Isshin decides to work for Shinomiya-en in Shizuoka with Hikari. The night before the day Isshin leaves for Shizuoka, at the firework festival, Chako couldn't hold back her feelings anymore and told him she liked him! They confirm their feelings for each other…

Characters

Isshin Kazashi

A live-in tea maker at Hananoki-en. He's quiet, unfriendly, and a bit acerbic, but he's really passionate about tea.

Chako Hananoki

After running away from her ex-fiancé, she returned to her parents' tea farm. She's strong-willed and has a rivalry with Isshin.

Futaba Hananoki

Daughter of Chako's brother, Yabuki. She's lost her mother. She isn't shy around new people, and took to Chako.

Table of Contents

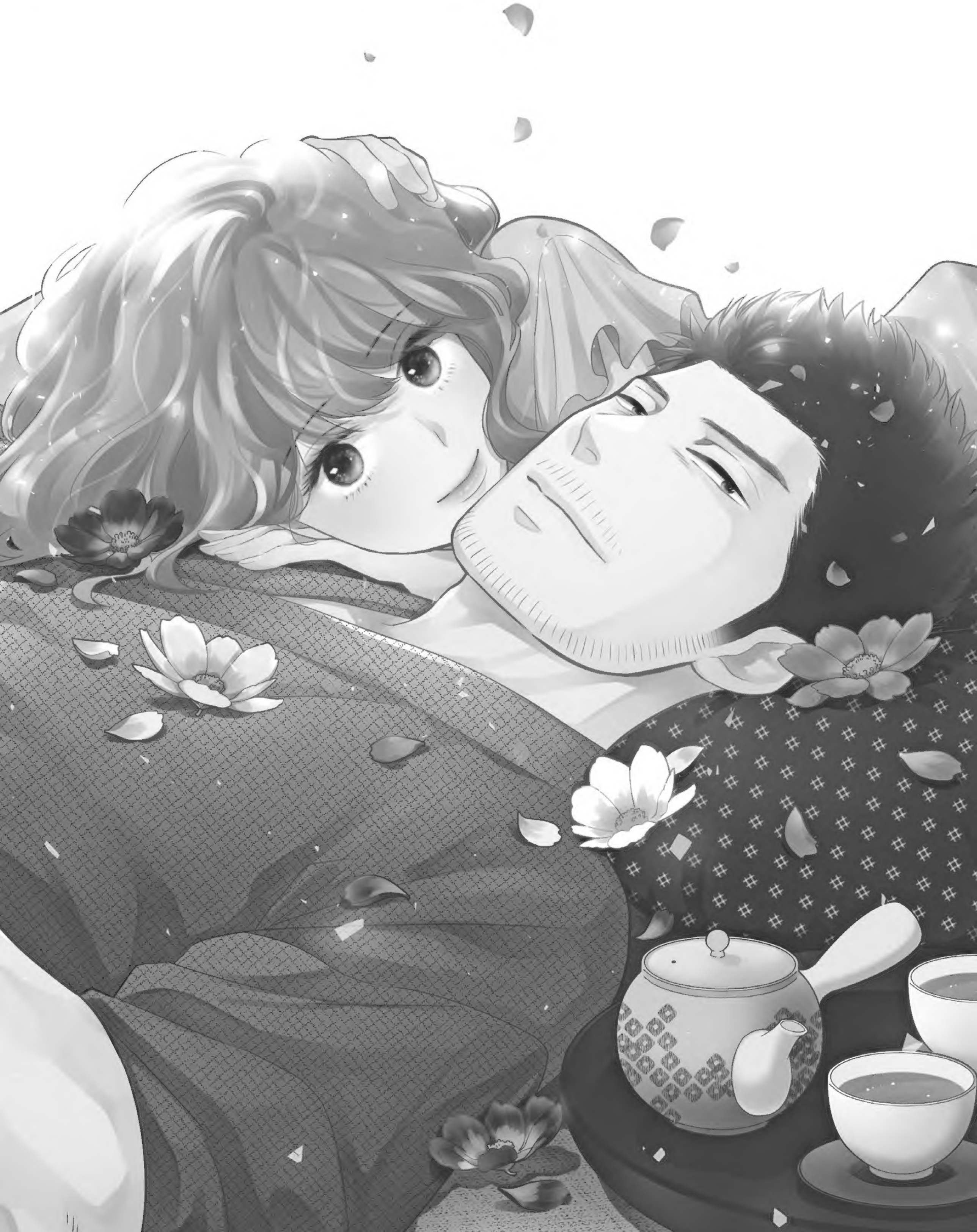
13th Cup **That Kiss Was a Joke?**

14th Cup **Love Sent From Shizuoka**

15th Cup **First Hardship**

16th Cup **The End of the Lie**

13th Cup That Kiss Was a Joke?



Matcha Made in Heaven

TWEET

CHIRP

CHIRP

FLAP

POUR

WAIT, WAIT!

YEAH.

IS THIS ALL OF YOUR LUGGAGE?

THI...

?

WELL...

THI...

SHOVE

UGH

THIS.

...IF THE STATION IS CROWDED...

YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO BUY IT...

...SO JUST IN CASE...

IT'S YOUR...

...BENTO.

I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT...

WE'RE NOT HIGH SCHOOLERS...

IT'S CRAZY TO MAKE IT WITHOUT ASKING... RIGHT...?

BUT...

UGH...

さ、と PUZZLED ん

IT WASN'T AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE I COULD ASK...

...YESTERDAY...

...IT'S HELPFUL.

THANKS.

THIS FEELS KINDA WEIRD.

Why are you smiling?

?

SMILE

SMILE

Her emotions are written all over her face.

I TOOK THE LONG WAY ROUND...

HEHE.

ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY...?

...BUT I DON'T HAVE TO HIDE MY FEELINGS ANYMORE.

THE CAR'S READY.

I'LL CALL YOU.

YEAH...

YOU WOKE UP FOR ME? THANK YOU.

YEAH...

FUTABA-CHAN.

I'LL SEE YOU OFF, TOO...

ISSHIN...

KISS

...I'LL SEE YOU SOON...

IT'S...

...YOUR TURN...

...CHAKO.

RIP

NOOO. CHAKO! YOU HAVE TO DO IT, TOO...

FUTABA, LET'S GO BACK TO BED UNTIL BREAKFAST.

WHAT?! I'M GONNA DO IT, TOO?!

GLARE

EVEN I'VE NEVER GOTTEN A KISS FROM HER...

GRAB

TEAR

KISS

...I'LL SEE YOU SOON.

FWIP

HEHE...

TELL YABUKI I'LL BE IN THE CAR.

ZZZ

HEHE...

ZZZ

JUST LIKE THIS...

Satisfied.

...WE WERE BUSY AS USUAL TODAY...

SURE...

品川
しながわ
Shinagawa
SGW
JY 25
JY 26 Takanawa Gateway

...WHEN ISSHIN-SAN LEFT FOR SHIZUOKA.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

はっ
GASP

PFFT

YOU WANT THE SEASONED RICE?

WHY NOT? SAKUMA-SAN'S TALL.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO TALKS LIKE THAT TO YOUR BOSS.

SAKUMA-SAN, CAN YOU PUT THIS UP THERE, TOO?

MOMOYAMA, DO IT YOURSELF.

FLOMP

OH.

WATCH OU...

CATCH

CATCH

おお
WOOOW

...NO PROBLEM.

I'M SORRY. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

THE TASTE WILL CHANGE IF IT FALLS ON THE GROUND...

...SO I APPRECIATE IT.

IT CHANGES WITH IMPACT...?

THE TASTE...?

BOTTLE: WAKOCHA* (JAPANESE BLACK TEA.)

...HE CARES ABOUT SUCH A THING...

I WONDER WHY...

DID YOUR WIFE MAKE THAT BENTO?

CARROT HEARTS! IT'S HOMEMADE, ISN'T IT?

WHAT?! WELL...

OH. IS IT NOT YOUR WIFE BUT YOUR GIRLFRIEND?

...

what are we?

Girlfrie...

...

what are we?

DON'T WORRY. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LACKING COMMON SENSE.

OH, NO. AM I ASKING SOMETHING WRONG?

SWEAT SWEAT

...

ALSO, YOU SEEM LIKE SUCH A CATCH.

JUST TURN THE SEAT BACK! SORRY!

...DON'T WORRY ABOUT... THE SEAT...

I MEAN, WE LITERALLY HAVE NO CHANCE TO MEET SOMEONE, SO I WANT TO LEARN.

KACHAK

HEY... I JUST WARNED YOU!

BY THE WAY, HOW DID YOU TWO MEET?

...!

Ap...

LEAN

WAS IT ON AN APP OR SOMETHING?

...PLACE ...?

...WORK...

W...

LISTEN TO ME... APPARENTLY, THE NEW DUDE IS A REAL JERK...

HEY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT!

OKAY...

GLOOM

ズーン...

...HOPE-LESS...

...THAT'S THE PLACE WHICH IS THE MOST...

THERE ARE ONLY GUYS...

...AND OUR SOON-TO-COME NEW MEMBER IS ALSO A GUY...

WHAT IS HE ...?

WHAT I HEARD IS THAT HE'S AN UNCONTROLLABLE VIOLENT JERK WHO LOOKS LIKE GODZILLA.

WHAT...?!

WE HAVE TO. THE NEW GUY IS A HORNY GORILLA WHO CHEATED ON OUR BOSS WITH FOUR OTHER WOMEN.

...WHAT KIND OF NEWCOMER IS THAT...?

YAP

His face is like Mothra, isn't it?!

YAP

No! His face is like Ghidorah, right?!

...THEY'RE UNIQUE, BUT THEY DON'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOU.

RUSTLE

...HE'S THE MOST UNIQUE ONE...

...YEAH.

BUT SAKUMA-SAN, YOU ARE THE ONE WHO WAS WORRIED ABOUT OUR BOSS THE MOST!

OUR DESTINATION WAS THE SAME STATION.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO US.

Bye!

BECAUSE SHE IS...

...TOO GOOD FOR OUR DEPARTMENT.

HEY! HERE!

IS THIS A COINCIDENCE? WHAT ABOUT YOUR JOB?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

HOLD ON A MINUTE.

BOSS!

ISSHIN!

...HIKARI.

...SO I WAS WORRIED YOU'D ALREADY LEFT.

GREAT! I SENT YOU A MESSAGE SAYING I'D BE PICKING YOU UP, BUT YOU HADN'T READ IT...

MAKE IT A HABIT TO CHECK YOUR PHONE.

YOU'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN LOST A LOT...

OH?

WHAT A COINCIDENCE! SO, YOU SAT NEXT TO EACH OTHER.

...

NO. I'M FINE. I'M CALM.

HIKARI-SAMA, I'LL DRIVE IF YOU GET TOO EXCITED.

...ABOUT GODZILLA AND GHIDORAH...

SO, WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT ON THE TRAIN?

GIDORAH? WHAT'S THAT? A DINOSAUR?

IT'S A MONSTER.

YOU MEAN, ABOUT TV SHOWS YOU WERE WATCHING WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, RIGHT?

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A SOLID TOPIC THAT MAKES THE CONVERSATION FUN. RIGHT, SAKUMA-KUN?

WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT IS THE ONE WHO'S MORE DANGEROUS AND CRAZIER.

OH, LIKE E.T.?

THAT'S AN ALIEN. AND HE'S A GOOD GUY...

LIKE HOW WE CAN KEEP THE DAMAGE FROM THE MONSTER AT A MINIMUM...

YEAH...

GULP

IT IS A SOLID TOPIC.

...OR EVEN BEFORE IT GETS OUT OF CONTROL...

...WE COULD DEAL WITH IT SOMEHOW...

I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY SINCE YOU HAD SUCH A FUN CONVERSATION.

I'M GLAD.

...

I WAS WORRIED 'CAUSE YOU GUYS ARE A LITTLE AWKWARD.

SNAP

ブチ…!

IT'S LIKE HELL GETTING RID OF THE WEEDS BY HAND...

I CAN'T STAND THE SWEET-POTATO VINES.

WHY DO THEY GROW IN THE TEA FIELDS...?

BUT...

SNAP

I CAN'T ANYMORE...

ハヒッ…

SNAP

I FEEL...

...HAPPY.

EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T WEAR SUNSCREEN 'CAUSE THE ODOR WILL SPREAD TO TEA LEAVES.

ALSO, I CAN ONLY USE FRAGRANCE-FREE SHAMPOO AND DETERGENT THOUGH GIRLS USUALLY ENJOY THE SMELL.

HAPPINESS

ぶちっ

SNAAAAP

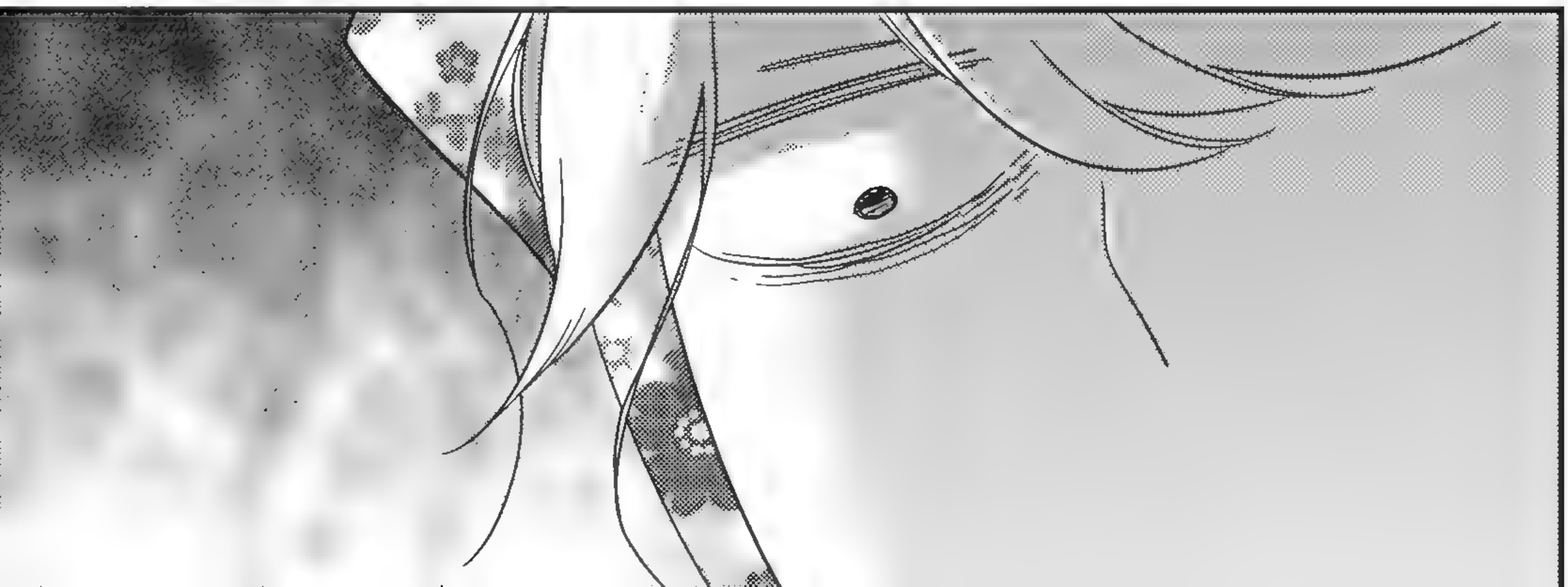
Today

I heard from Shinomiya-en.

They said Isshin is doing well.



IS IT FROM ISSHIN-SAN?! HE'S ARRIVED IN SHIZUOKA SAFELY...?



EVERYONE'S LOOKING FOR A SUCCESSOR.

OH, COME ON, MADAM...

ISN'T SHE NICE? WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET HER?

JIN! HEY, LOOK!

NEGISHI-EN

I DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL.

I MEAN, YOU WERE WORKING IN TOKYO BUT CAME BACK HERE. THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING, RIGHT?

I'M NOT READY FOR THAT KIND OF STUFF YET.

YOU KNOW, CHAKO-CHAN ALSO HAS A FAMILY NOW.

YOU SEE?

YOU ONLY WANNA CONSIDER CANDIDATES FROM A TEA FARM? THEN, IN THE NEXT CITY–

I DIDN'T MEAN THAT...!

I ONLY WANT A WONDERFUL LADY...

...WHO EVEN BEATS YOU...

THREE POINTS.

YOU HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING CLEVERER TO A MATURE LADY.

KISS

Jin! Take the board to Hananoki-san's house!

SHINY

IT'S TIME TO LOOK FOR ANOTHER JOB...

...TO LEAVE THE HOUSE...

IT'S MY FAULT TO COME BACK WHEN MY BROTHER'S ALREADY TAKEN OVER THE TEA FARM, THOUGH...

DAMN IT...

NOW THEY'RE TARGETING ME 'CAUSE ISSHIN FOUND A PARTNER...!

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.

LIKE THAT TIME.

IT WAS JUST A BET.

NO.

WE HAVE NEVER BEEN GOOD AT COMMUNI-CATING.

I'M SURE SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER THAT.

...ANYONE TO LIKE AN UNFEMININE PERSON LIKE ME...

I MEAN, I DIDN'T EXPECT...

...WHO ONLY THINKS ABOUT CLUB ACTIVITIES AND EATING PROTEIN SNACKS...

PACKAGE:PROTEIN STICK ALMOND RICH CHOCOLATE

SEMPAIS IN THE TRACK AND FIELD CLUB WERE BETTING IF I'D FALL FOR HIM.

...IT KINDA HURTS.

BUT...

I LIKE IT, THOUGH.

...LIKE IT.

I...

...

I know. It's good, huh?

...WHAT? THE PROTEIN STICK?

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN'T FORGET ABOUT IT.

IT STILL DRIVES ME CRAZY RE-MEMBERING IT...

I WISH YOU'D TOLD ME EARLIER...

...

...CHANGING, THOUGH.

SHE IS...

...STOPPED ONLY FOR ME.

TIME HAS...

SERIOUS...? THAT'S SO SCARY...! IS THIS A DECLARATION OF WAR...?!

...I GUESS SHE'S MORE SERIOUS THAN I THOUGHT...

WHY DID HIKARI-SAN CONTACT YOU...?!

はっ?

GASP

CHAKO...

...GET OFFICIALLY MARRIED.

TH-THAT WON'T BE HAPPENING ...!!

IT'S NOT GOOD IF HIKARI-SAN TAKES HIM AWAY.

HUH...?! M-M-M-MARRIED...?! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

B-BE-CAUSE...

...? WHY?

I MEAN... ANYWAY! LEAVE US ALONE 'CAUSE ISSHIN-SAN IS HAVING A HARD TIME IN THE NEW ENVIRONMENT!

WE HAVE NO PROBLEM AS IT IS!

MUMBLE

...YOU KNOW... IT'S A...LONG STORY...

MUMBLE

FAKE...?

WE'RE KEEPING THIS FAKE MARRIAGE!!

BOARD: NOTICE

キュゥ…
SQUEEZE

CHAKO
…

…A FAKE MARRIAGE…?

WHAT DOES SHE… MEAN…?

IT KINDA HURTS.

14th Cup Love Sent from Shizuoka

TEA FIELDS IN SUMMER.

THAT MEANS...

THUD

YUI

KA

...I CAN'T LIFT MY ARMS UP ANYMORE...

...A WAR WITH WEEDS.

I use completely different muscles from the ones used in sports!!

...BUT AFTER HOURS OF WORK, IT'S JUST LIKE WORKING OUT.

SNAP

SNAP

AT FIRST, I WAS EXCITED TO DO THE JOB...

ALSO...

DRIP

...DAY.

OH, NOOO!

THERE'RE BROWN SPOTS ON THE LEAVES...! ARE THEY SICK...?!

...AFTER...

I JUST GOT RID OF THE WEEDS THERE...!

...DAY...

THE WEATHER FORECAST DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS...!

VSSSHH

NATURE IS MOODY.

Read
15:38

The leaves are just sunburnt.

No problem.



urnt.

15:40

OH, MAYBE IT'S TIME TO...

s there anything else to do,
ther than weeding?

POP

C

DEF

I MEAN, ALL I DID WAS WEEDING, THOUGH...

HAAAHH

GOOD... I THOUGHT THEY GOT SICK 'CAUSE I DID SOMETHING WRONG...

POP

Keep weeding.

POP

Take some rest when necessary.

POP♪

No.

TNK

HAAAH...

...BUT HE COULD SAY...SOMETHING NICER THAN THIS...

I KNEW HE'S NOT THE KIND OF PERSON WHO SAYS SWEET THINGS...

JUMP

ぴょーん！

CHAKOOO!

UFF.

YOU'RE RIGHT! I'LL GET READY...

ARE YOU PRACTICING SWIMMING FREESTYLE? I HAVE AN ELECTRONIC ORGAN LESSON TODAY!

IT'S SORE...!! IT'S WHERE MY MUSCLES ARE SORE...!!

SNAP

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

?

I GOT A CRAMP!!

SHUT

NO, NO. THIS IS... I MEAN, IT'S NOTHING!

GASP
はっ

CHAKO ...?

I'LL BE READY IN A MINUTE, SO PUT ON YOUR SHOES AND WAIT FOR ME JUST A LITTLE BIT...!

ROOOAARR
ぬおお

...

四宮園
商品開発センター
Shinomiyaen Product Development Center

THIS WAY.

Isshin Kazashi

FIDGET

YOU FEEL RESTLESS WHEN THE PLACE IS TOO SPACIOUS, HUH?

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT IT'S THIS BIG...

SST

SORRY ...

I'M SORRY.

THUD

FLOMP

DON'T WORRY. YOU'LL GET USED TO IT SOON.

BASICALLY, WE JUST STAY HERE AND WORK.

WE KEEP DOING RESEARCH UNTIL WE GET THE TASTE WE WANT...

CREEEAK

SHINOMIYA EN
Yuu Sakuma

ぽん
PAT

ぽん
PAT

ぽん
PAT

イ
イ
イ





IT LOOKS LIKE THIS.

TEA...

IT MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME UNTIL YOU GET USED TO THIS SINCE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN A LABORATO-RY...

...I GET TO WORK WITH...

...THIS MUCH TEA...?

(3)

(3)

HEY, HEY.

DID YOU GET IT?

DID YOU GET A PHONE CALL?

NO CALLS TODAY, EITHER...?

BOOK: POOR CREATURES

WELL...

...

ISSHIN...

I DON'T WANNA DO ANYTHING THAT BOTHERS HIM...

...BUT I'M SURE HE'LL FORGIVE ME 'CAUSE HE'S SO SWEET TO FUTABA-CHAN.

Video Call

TAP

ALL RIGHT! THEN, LET'S CALL HIM!

CAN WE?!

VRRH

どきどきどき

THUMP THUMP THUMP

OH?

WHO IS THIS?!

HA HA HA HA はははは

Oh, no.
I ANSWERED IT.
GOOD EVENING!

WHAT ?!

OH!

COME ON! KAZASHI-SAN'S WASTED.

DUDE... WHY DID YOU ANSWER THE CALL WITHOUT ASKING!

ISSHIN!

OH, ARE YOU THE WIFE WHO MADE THE BENTO?

H-HELLO!

I'M FUTABA! CHAKO'S THIS ONE!

OH? YOU'RE CHAKO... CHAN? I'M MOMOYAMA!

WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?!

HE MADE IT A JOKE...

HOW DID THEY TALK ABOUT IT...?! WAIT...

WHAT'S GOING ON...?! DID ISSHIN-SAN TALK ABOUT IT...?!

chako is his wife.

Really?!

WHY DOES HE KNOW...?!

wanna see.

yup.

wanna see.

what? The carrot hearts woman?

SHFF わら

SHFF わら

Sure, sure. Hold on a second!

Futaba wants to tell him a secret!

Oh. Kazashi-san's awake.

...THAT MEANS HE THOUGHT BENTO WAS A TERRIBLE IDEA...!!

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

CHAKO-SAN, CHAKO-SAN.

OH? IT'S RUNNING OUT OF BATTERY...

OH, DON'T WORRY. I'LL TAKE HIM HOME...

I'M SORRY. WE'RE HAVING A WELCOME PARTY FOR ISSHIN...

ANYWAY, DON'T WORRY.

BOOP

...AND THOSE GUYS ANSWERED YOUR CALL FOR FUN...

SILENCE

...

DON'T WORRY...?

CLENCH

THAT'S...

IMPOSSIBLE.

IT TAKES TWO AND A HALF HOURS TO SHIZUOKA!

Dep. Irumashi
Ikebukuro
Tokyo
Arr. Shizuoka

I CAN STILL GET THERE IN PLENTY OF TIME!!

FWIP

FWIP

WHY IS HE SHOWING HIS WEAK SIDE WHEN HIKARI-SAN'S AROUND? HE'S HOPELESS...!!

I THOUGHT HE WAS RELIABLE!!

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

...AND...

I'LL PUT FUTABA-CHAN TO SLEEP AND ASK YABUKI TO WATCH HER...

AND WHAT AM I GONNA DO?

...ISSHIN-SAN WOULD LOSE FACE IF I RAN TO HIM. EVERY-ONE WOULD CRINGE.

EVEN IF I COULD FIND IT...

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE RESTAURANT IS.

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN GO THERE.

ROLL

UGH...

UM.

SNAP

SERIOUSLY...?! I GOT CRAMPS IN BOTH LEGS...!!

IT HUUURTS !!

!!

DRAG

ANYWAY, I NEED SOME WATER...

CALM DOWN. CALM DOWN.

はぁ PANT

はぁ PANT

WHAT IS THIS? I CAN'T MOVE AT ALL...

I'VE BEEN EATING HEALTHY...

I'VE BEEN WORKING OUT...

WHY...?!

BUT WHY...?

WHY IS THIS ALWAYS HAPPENING TO ME...?

HOW PATHETIC...

ARE YOU OKAY?!

AIO-

BANG

PULL

ぐ.

い！！

HEY!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

why are you here?!

U U

...YOU'RE FINE.

A cold compress?

I'M NOT FINE! I HAVE CRAMPS IN BOTH LEGS!

...YOU GOT INJURED, AND YOU'RE...

...SWATHED IN BANDAGES.

FUTABA TOLD ME...

AT THAT TIME...?!

Futaba wants to tell him a secret!

BANDAG-ES...?! WHEN DID SHE TELL...?

...HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE...?

WHAT...? BUT FOR THAT...?

DOZE

DOZE

FUTABA-CHAN MISTOOK THE TAPING FOR BANDAGES...

I WAS TRYING TO HIDE, BUT SHE NOTICED IT...

SO, YOU JUST HAVE...

...CRAMPS?

AGHHHH!

WAIT, WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?!

I'M TELLING YOU THAT I HAVE CRAMPS IN BOTH LEGS!!

KNOCK

BANG

KNOCK

BAM

FEK

DIP

NO! IT'S A FOOT BATH!

I WON'T! WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM?

NO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE!

NO! DON'T SINK ME!!

DIP ちゃぷ…

YOU CAN DO IT SLOWLY, BUT LET YOUR LEGS DOWN.

…

…

WHAT IS THIS POSITION?

OH?

YOU SHOULDN'T PUT ON A COLD COMPRESS WHEN YOU HAVE A CRAMP.

WEREN'T YOU A SPORTS INSTRUCTOR?

...

I'M SORRY...

I THOUGHT I JUST HAD TO COOL IT DOWN TO HEAL MUSCLE FATIGUE...

I DIDN'T GET ANYTHING LIKE...

Keep weeding.

Take some rest when necessary.

WHAT?! WHEN?!

...I TOLD YOU NOT TO PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.

...ON THE SMART-PHONE.

...OH, THAT ONE.

...I'VE BEEN THINKING, BUT YOU COULD...

...SAY THINGS...

...MORE DIRECTLY...

I HAVE THREE TEAMMATES... THEY'RE VERY UNIQUE.

what a drunk...

...I DIDN'T MEAN THINGS LIKE THAT...

...THEIR LABORATORY IS...

...HUGE.

YAWN

ふぁ...

...THE VIEW...

BUT I CAN TELL...

THE PLACE I LIVE IS...FULLY FURNISHED...

...FUTABA WILL LIKE IT...

...HE'S TRYING TO NOT MAKE ME WORRY.

open

...SPEAKING OF FUTABA-CHAN, SHE STARTED TO HELP ME OUT RECENTLY...

...NOW, SHE'S REALLY GOOD AT PUTTING AWAY HER TOYS.

THAT'S GREAT. BECAUSE SHE'S VERY GOOD AT MAKING A MESS.

Yabuki gives her too much to begin with.

...THANK YOU FOR COMING.

...YOU'RE WELCOME.

...RIGHT.

I GUESS HE LOVES HIS WIFE MORE THAN I EXPECTED.

HE SAID HIS WIFE WAS IN TROUBLE AND HAD TO GO BACK.

WELL, THAT WAS SURPRISING.

...I'M JEALOUS...

THEY'RE FRESH.

15th Cup First Hardship

UGH.

THROB

OUCH...

THROB

ズキン

THROB

FWAP

CHAKO...

ISSHIN'S HERE...!

THUD

WHAT...?! WHAT IS IT...?!

THUD

WAIT, FUTABA! THIS IS NOT–

YAAAY!

I'LL SLEEP WITH YOU GUYS!

H...HEY!

FWIP

...BY THE WAY...

OH?!

...OH.

?!

YOU'RE... KIDDING, RIGHT...? YESTERDAY, YOU CAME BACK TO CHECK ON ME, REMEMBER...?

!

?!!

...WHAT? ...WHAT ABOUT THE BATH...? YOU...DRAGGED ME THERE...

...! ...! ...!

I WANTED TO TAKE A BATH WITH YOU, TOO!

...

...

...WHY AM I HERE...?

POUR

ふんわり

四宮園
商品開発センター
Shinomiya Product Development Center

FOR ABOUT THREE MINUTES WITH THE TEA LEAVES FROM HANANOKI-EN.

THE WATER'S TEMPERATURE IS 122°F.

POUR IT GENTLY AS IF YOU PUT THE TASTE IN IT.

YOU SHOULD GET UNTIL THE LAST DRIP WHEN YOU POUR.

HERE YOU ARE.

THIS IS THE TEMOMI-CHA I MADE.

Isshin Kazashi

YOU'RE RIGHT...

WHISPER

HE LOOKS PROFESSIONAL EVEN THOUGH HE CAME BACK IN THE EARLY MORNING.

LITERALLY, YOU'RE MAKING THE MOST FUSS.

BECAUSE I...

BUT HE COULD BE ONLY BLUFFING.

IT MIGHT BE SURPRISING, BUT I'M THE FUSSIEST ABOUT TASTE.

...

WOW.

FLINCH

◦ Its the
◦ The color is yellow green
◦ Smells sweet Like a stem

IT SMELLS LIKE A STEM... IT'S A BIT SWEET...

I WONDER IF SOME-THING'S DIF-FERENT FROM NORMAL TEMOMI-CHA...

SNIFF

SO GOOD...

IT'S LIKE "WOW," RIGHT?! IT HAS SO MUCH UMAMI. I MEAN, IT TASTES LIKE BROTH.

...?!

MUMBLE MUMBLE

WHAT IS THIS...? THIS IS NOT TEA...

WHO THE HECK HIRED THIS GUY...?

S-SAKUMA-SAN...

GASP

はっ

...THANKS.

SIP

BUT...

はぁ
: PHEW

...IT'S GOOD.

TCH
ちっ

THIS TEA IS...

...I WOULD SAY.

...TOO TASTY...

YES.

KAZASHI-SAN.

カタ…

RATTLE

...IT'S SHOW-TIME...

...HERE WE GO.

He feinted.

...THE TASTE OF YOUR TEA IS TOO STRONG.

IF THE PORTION IS BIG AND IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE COLD...

A CUP OF TEA POURED FROM A TEAPOT...

HOW WOULD YOU ADJUST IT?

...IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM TEA FROM THE BOTTLE.

YOU'D WATER IT DOWN?

...I SHOULD WATER IT DOWN...?

DO YOU MEAN...

...

WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN THE IMAGE OF THE TEA THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE.

コ

TNK

...

HERE...

...IT'S NOT ENOUGH IF ONLY YOU KNOW IT.

YOU SHOULD SHARE WITH EVERYONE AND MAKE IT WITH EVERYONE.

IT'S NOT FOR YOUR OWN SATISFACTION...

...BUT WE WANT TO MAKE TEA...

...THAT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE CAN ENJOY.

I'D LIKE YOU TO...

...KEEP THAT IN MIND.

SILENCE

...

HEY, GUYS!

KER-CHAK

WELL... YOU KNOW, IT'S HIS FIRST DAY, SAKUMA-SAN.

GASP

SILENCE

L

ん…

OH?

I HEARD THAT ISSHIN IS MAKING TEMOMI-CHA.

DO YOU THINK IT'S GOING WELL? SAKUMA-KUN, PLEASE TEACH HIM GENTLY.

YOU'RE TRYING IT NOW? HOW IS IT? IT'S GOOD, RIGHT?

UM, YEAH.

YOU LIAAAR!

Good.

...I'M DOING MY BEST.

...

OH! IT'S GOOD TIMING. LET'S GIVE THIS TO PEOPLE WATCHING US.

PEEK
ひょい、

ALL RIGHT.

WHRRR

JUST LIKE THIS...

WHRRR

WHRRR

I SEE...! THANK YOU, JIN! THIS HELPS A LOT!

...YOU CAN CUT THE ROOTS OF WEEDS WITH A CULTIVATOR WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO WEED THE FURROWS.

I'll ask him right now.

He might say you have to get rid of the roots by hand.

JUST IN CASE... YOU SHOULD CHECK WITH ISSHIN. HE SEEMS PICKY ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING.

THAT'S TRUE.

WE'RE KEEPING THIS FAKE MARRIAGE...

...THE THING YOU SAID YOU'D TRY ON THE FIREWORKS DAY.

...DID YOU GET TO TALK SINCE THEN? WITH ISSHIN.

HUH? ABOUT WHAT?

UM... OHHH! THAT ONE!

...I FEEL LIKE YOU'D COME CRYING TO ME ABOUT YOUR LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP ISSUES... CHAKO...

1+0 FWIP

...NEXT TIME...

THANKS TO YOU...

HE WOULD REPLY LESS FREQUENTLY...

WE'LL SEE.

UGH

...YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY.

STOP SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT!

...AND IN A WEEK, YOU'D MAKE A FUSS SAYING HE WOULDN'T REPLY...

YOU'RE KINDA MEAN TODAY...!

See ya.

WELL, ANYWAY, GOOD LUCK WITH THE WEEKEND MARRIAGE.

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BUT THAT KINDA FELT GREAT. HE LOOKED A LITTLE SMUG!

...YOU SCARED US 'CAUSE YOU DIDN'T HESITATE FROM THE BEGINNING, SAKUMA-SAN.

WELL...

OKAY!

...I'LL STOP BY THE STORAGE.

HEY. COME ON.

...I'M JUST DOING MY JOB.

KAZASHI-SAN?

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

OH... I'M SORRY. WERE YOU TALKING TO ME?

THIS IS WONDERFUL. WHEN YOU SCAN THE BARCODE, YOU CAN LISTEN TO THE RECORD AND THE EXPLANATION...

FEEL FREE TO LOOK AROUND THE TEA STORAGE.

I TOLD SHINOMIYA-SAN THAT I WANTED TO LEARN ABOUT PREVIOUS PRODUCTS, AND SHE INTRODUCED ME TO THIS PLACE.

WHO MADE IT?

ME.

...WELL, YEAH. IT'S MADE THAT WAY.

...

He's very honest.

...THAT'S SO COOL.

...I THOUGHT YOU WERE FEELING DOWN, THOUGH.

...THE TEA ITSELF IS...

...

...I WAS EXPECTING THAT YOU'D BE USELESS FOR ABOUT 53 HOURS AND 12 MINUTES...

...OKAY.?

...

YOU SAID...

...GOOD.

ALSO...

YOU MADE ME THINK THAT.

...I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN THE TASTE I'M THINKING OF.

...BUT THINKING THAT IT LEADS US TO NEW TEA...

...I'M NOT GOOD AT PUTTING THINGS INTO WORDS...

...IT'S FUN.

THERE ARE MORE TEA LEAVES IN THE OTHER ROOM.

RATTLE

DO YOU WANT TO SEE THEM?

YES!

what does "top" mean?

what does "full-bodied tea-leaves" mean...?

WHAT DOES "FUNCTION EVALUATION TERM" MEAN...?

SAKUMA-SAN.

HAGGERED

HAAA

THUD

HAAA

I'LL ALSO PUT AWAY THE...

KAZASHI-SAN, SHALL WE GO? OUR COMPANY DOESN'T WANT US TO WORK OVERTIME.

OKAY.

GOOD.
THE TEA IS
SAFE...

LOOKS LIKE IT'S NOT BRO-KEN...

...

...I'M SORRY!

...THE TABLET YOU THREW IS MORE EXPENSIVE.

...."THE TEA IS SAFE."

OH, I MEAN... I'M SORRY...

HEH

...I'M GLAD.

THE TEA IS SAFE...

...YEAH.

HAHA-
HAHA

...

He hasn't even read them...

IT'S WEIRD... HE USUALLY REPLIES PRETTY QUICKLY, THOUGH...

15:38 What time are you arriving tomorrow?

15:38 I'll pick you up.

HMMM...

DRUNK...

...IT'S VERY POSSIBLE...

NO WAY. AGAIN...?

I WONDER HOW I CAN STOP THINKING ABOUT THESE THINGS...!

UMM! AGHHHH!

HE WOULD REPLY LESS FREQUENTLY...

'CAUSE JIN TOLD ME SUCH A THING...

KAZASHI-SAAAN. IT'S ENOUGH, RIGHT?

THIS IS THE LAST ONE.

YOU JUST TOLD ME THAT...

FLICK

FLICK

16th Cup The End of the Lie



CHAKO-CHAN IS WITH THE TEACHER AGAIN!

I'm mad!

HEEEY! THAT'S NOT FAIR!

WHY DOESN'T HER MOM COME?!

SHE HAS THE TEACHER ALL TO HERSELF AT THE ZOO AND ON THE SCHOOL TRIP!

I WON'T LET CHAKO-CHAN JOIN US!

PUZZLED

キョトン

HOW GOOD WOULD IT HAVE BEEN IF I DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING?

TADA!

JIN-KUN, COME ON!

...YOU HAVE A MOTHER, BUT WHY...?

...T-TEA PICKING! SHE'S BUSY WITH IT!

TODAY, JIN-KUN IS WITH US!

YOU, TOO, RIGHT? CHAKO-CHAN?

...DOES SHE PICK TEA IN SEPTEMBER?

HEY, HEY. I'M HAPPY TO HAVE YOU TWO.

YES!

What?

wasn't it supposed to be Mr. Beard?!

what is that?!

♪ tap tap tap tap, tea girl!! ♫

EVEN WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I WAS TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE. NO WONDER WHY IT'S BECOME A HABIT.

...AND I WAS WITH THEM WHEN THEY WANTED SOMEONE NEXT TO THEM...

I LISTENED TO THEM TALK...

...BUT I WAS NICE TO OTHER GIRLS, TOO...

IT'S NOT ONLY WITH CHAKO...

WHEN I REALIZED...

BLOW

...I WAS THINKING...

SOB

...GIRLS WERE EASY.

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

パチ パチ パチ…

N-NO.
I WAS IN THE SAME CLUB...!

CHAKO...
HOW CAN YOU CRY THAT MUCH...?
TO BE HONEST, WE WERE INVITED JUST TO MAKE UP THE NUMBERS OF HER CLASSMATES' TABLE.

...

WE SURVIVED THE HARD AS HELL PRACTICES TOGETHER.
IT MAKES ME FEEL REALLY EMOTIONAL TO SEE HER GET MARRIED...

...BUT SHE'S NEVER FALLEN FOR ME. SHE HASN'T EVEN NOTICED ANYTHING.

SERIOUSLY, SHE SEEMS TO BE THE EASIEST...

WHAT?! REALLY?! WHO'S YOUR HUSBAND?!

I MEAN... WELL...

IT WAS TRUE, THEN! HEY, YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD US!

ERK

RIGHT. BY THE WAY, I HEARD YOU GOT MARRIED. IS THAT TRUE?

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, CHAKO.

THEN... I'LL GO TO THE BATHROOM REAL QUICK...

...CHAKO, YOUR EYE MAKEUP IS A DISASTER. WHY DON'T YOU GO FIX IT?

...

THUD

THUD

HONESTLY, I THOUGHT SO, TOO.

I WAS THINKING YOU AND CHAKO WOULD BE TOGETHER.

LOOK AT YOU.

YUKI-CHAN, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED HOW YOUR SKIN AND HAIR ARE SHINY.

JIN, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED THE WAY YOU SPOIL CHAKO.

I LIKE THAT PART OF YOU.

Hana haha.

JIN, YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING BECAUSE YOU WERE USUALLY POPULAR WITH GIRLS, RIGHT?

PASSIVE GUYS SUCCEED ONLY IN MANGA AND TV SERIES.

OH, HEY. THIS IS CHAKO'S HUSBAND.

WHAT?! HE LOOKS CLASSIC!

JIN IS WAY MORE HANDSOME. HAHA.

NOTHING WILL HAPPEN WHEN YOU'RE JUST WAITING.

...I KNOW...

...

IF YOU UNDERSTAND, YOU SHOULDN'T DRINK UNTIL YOU CAN'T WALK.

STOP.

TEA MAKERS ...

BOTTLE: AROMA TEA

WHY DON'T YOU ADJUST?

YOU AND ISSHIN-SAN...

...THAT I'M NOT...

...TALKING ABOUT THAT...

ARE YOU TELLING ME NOT TO DRINK TEA...?

YOU SHOULD KNOW...

WHAT ...?

I...

...NO, I DON'T GET IT...

I...

CHAKO-CHAN CARRIED YOU HERE.

THAT'S RIGHT. JIN-KUN, YOU WERE WASTED YESTERDAY.

UNCLE JIN, DON'T SAY THAT.

WHOA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

IT WAS HARD YESTERDAY. RIGHT, MOM?

CHAKO-CHAN IS AWESOME!

Hellooo.

IT WAS HEROIC.

SERI-OUSLY?

COMPARED TO THAT, UNCLE JIN WAS SUPER LAME, RIGHT?

RIGHT. THAT PIGGYBACK!

GO TAKE A SHOWER NOW.

AND WHY DON'T YOU GO THANK HER?

Hehe.

STARE

ALL RIGHT! I'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA!

?

An aura that says "you can hang out with Futaba."

ALSO, I WANT TO STUDY SINCE I CAN'T GO TO THE FARM... WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

HMM. IT'S RAINING OUT-SIDE...

CAN I ENTER HERE?

ONLY WHEN YOU'RE WITH ME.

WHAT'S THIS?!

TADA!

IT'S FROZEN STEAMED TEA LEAVES. SOMEONE GAVE IT TO ME, AND I DEFROSTED IT.

TADADAHHH!! THIS IS A HOIRO* FOR TEMOMI-CHA THAT MY FATHER WAS USING FOR PRACTICE!

WE HAVE THIS ONE HERE!

LET'S MAKE SURE NOT TO TOUCH ISSHIN-SAN'S TOOLS...

*A HEATED WORK TABLE FOR MAKING TEMOMI-CHA.

THAT'S RIGHT!

GOT IT! WE'RE MAKING TEMOMI-CHA!

FLUMP

THEY RUBBED STEAMED TEA LEAVES A LOT WHILE HEATING THEM.

PEOPLE USED TO MAKE TEA WITHOUT MACHINES.

FLUMP

RUSTLE

YOU KNOW WHAT? FUTABA-CHAN.

BURN

HEY, LOOK!

WOW. THEY ARE SPIKY!

...WILL BE NICE AND SPIKY LIKE THIS.

SOGGY

THESE LEAVES...

WELL, FIRST... WE'RE GONNA GET RID OF WATER!

HOW DO YOU DO IT?!

I KNOW THIS ONE.

IT'S CALLED HABURUI.

I LOVED TO WATCH DAD DO THIS, AND I WOULD OFTEN WATCH IT...

DAD FLUFFED THEM UP LIKE THIS...

WHAT?

THUD

THUD

I WONDER IF MY MEMORIES ARE GLORIFIED...

IT'S WEIRD. DAD WAS HANDLING TEA LEAVES MORE EASILY...

STICKY

...IT'S NOT GET-TING...

...SPIKY AT ALL, NYO...

!

FUTABA-CHAN! LET'S PLAY TOGETHER!

Nyo?

LOOKS LIKE...SHE'S GETTING BORED...

I GUESS IT'S DIFFICULT FOR KIDS...

I'LL DO IT MORE MYSELF...

MARIRIN! CAN I GO PLAY?

SURE. MAKE SURE TO WASH YOUR HANDS.

Okay!

...I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I SHOULD DO THIS...

Hmmm...

BUT...

HAAH

...IF HE WAS HERE.

I WONDER IF ISSHIN-SAN WOULD TEACH ME...







I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY. I WAS DRUNK...

JIN... WHAT'S UP?

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. BUT THAT WAS SURPRISING. YOU SUDDENLY FELL ASLEEP AFTER THAT.

OH, THIS IS...

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

CHAKO?

GASP

...TEMOMI-CHA.

OH!
YOUR FATHER MAKES IT, TOO. YOU KNOW HOW TO DO THIS, DON'T YOU?

I WAS DOING IT JUST FOR FUN...

...IT'S FOR ISSHIN?

TEACH ME.

...BUT IT'S QUITE DIFFICULT...

GRAB

SWOOSH

I'M JUST LEARNING...

NO WAY! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...

YOU DON'T NEED THIS.

...W-WHAT? WHAT?

ARE YOU STILL DRUNK OR SOME-THING...?

IT'S A FAKE MARRIAGE, RIGHT?

IT BENEFITS BOTH OF US...

WE HAVE... A GOOD REASON FOR THIS...!

BUT YOU LIKE HIM NOW.

OH, NO... YOU FOUND THAT OUT...

BLUSH

YOU HAD THE SAME FACE WHEN YOU WERE WITH THAT SEMPAI.

...NOT REALLY...

STOP.

IT IS!

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS...

YOU STARTED TO LIKE HIM EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE DUPED. YOU WERE HEARTBROKEN AFTER THAT, RIGHT?

D-DO YOU HAVE TO BRING THAT UP NOW...?! IT'S SO SUDDEN...

I LIKE YOU, CHAKO!

I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET HURT ANYMORE...

...YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND BY NOW...



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TOMORROW... I'M GOING TO VISIT A TEA FARMER WHO GROWS RARE TEA LEAVES...

HEY, KAZASHI-SAN.

HMM...

ARE YOU SURE? YOU WERE SAYING YOU'D TAKE A DAY OFF AND GO BACK TO HANANOKI-EN BECAUSE YOU WORKED ON THE WEEKEND.

IF YOU'D LIKE...

I'D LOVE TO.

...NO.

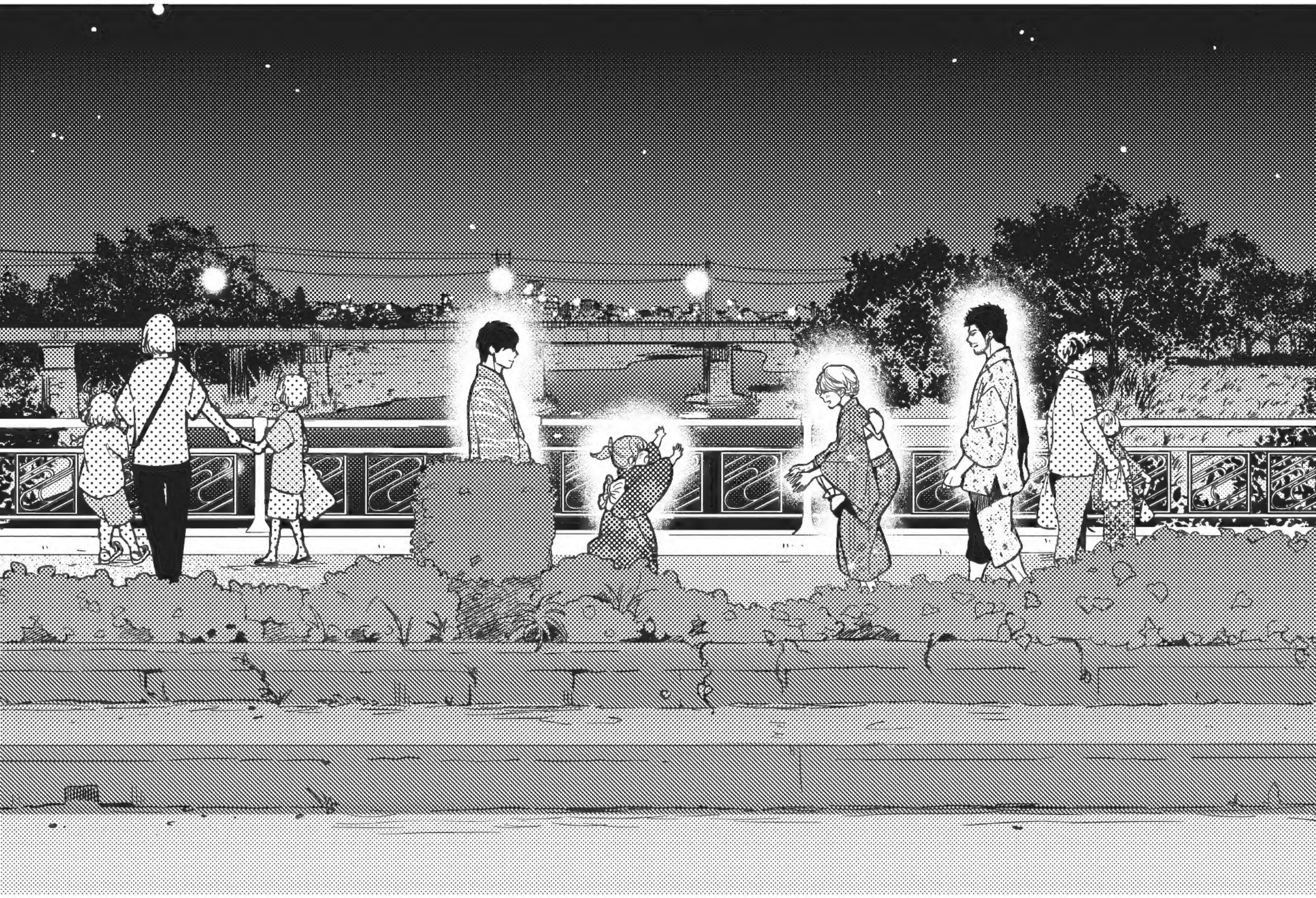
...IT'S FINE.

...I'M SURE CHAKO...

...WILL UNDER-STAND...



TO BE CONTINUED IN VOL. 5



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